



SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

--CLEAN VERSION--

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALIGNING TUBULARS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/486,901, filed on May 19, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,591,471, which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/GB98/02582, filed on September 2, 1998, and published under PCT Article 21(2) in English. The aforementioned related patent applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] **1. Field of the Invention**

[0003] This invention relates to a method and apparatus for aligning tubulars.

[0004] **2. Description of the Related Art**

[0005] During the construction, repair and maintenance of oil and gas wells it is necessary to connect a plurality of tubulars. Conventionally this is achieved via screwed connections.

[0006] In order to screw the tubulars together it is usual to hold a lower tubular having an upwardly facing socket in slips in the rig floor. The downwardly extending pin of the next tubular is then aligned with the socket. The tubular is then lowered into position and the upper tubular rotated to the desired torque to make the connection.

[0007] It is important that the pin should be correctly aligned with the socket prior to lowering the upper tubular since, if this is not the case, the tubular being

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